BOSTON GLOBE
20 January 1982

# Leopold Trepper, at 77, headed a Soviet spy ring during WWII

**From Wire Services**

TEL AVIV – Leopold Trepper, who headed a World War II Soviet spy ring known as the "Red Orchestra," died yesterday in Jerusalem, Israel Radio announced. He was 77.

Mr. Trepper, who was born in Poland and immigrated to Israel in 1973, headed the 290-member spy ring with cells in France, Belgium, Germany, Japan and Switzerland. The "Red Orchestra," as it was called in Nazi documents, provided the Soviet Union in 1940 with information of Germany's impending invasion and managed to infiltrate German Air Force headquarters in Berlin.

Trepper was born in Poland in 1904 and established the organization on the eve of the outbreak of World War II.

Mr. Trepper was imprisoned in Poland at age 22 for his communist sympathies and later went to Palestine, where in 1930 he was imprisoned by British authorities. On his release he went to study languages in France and was accepted into the Soviet intelligence services.

After World War II he was imprisoned in Moscow for 10 years, until his rehabilitation in 1955 after Joseph Stalin's death. He won an emigration permit from Poland to Israel in 1973.

Mr. Trepper claimed that 66 of his spy ring's members were Jewish and he was imprisoned to cover the Soviet Union's embarrassment that its most successful espionage network was largely led by Jews.